



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

# Chairman's Newsletter

Number 17. January, 1983.

NEW YEAR, NEW HIGH.

"Ever upward, ever onward," as we're often wont to say, and it's especially true of ISASC. As we enter 1983, our membership count stands at 249, and the end is nowhere in sight. Cards for the newest members are enclosed (although about to become collectors' items, as disclosed below.) Please remove from your roster Ulrich Haase, Howard Harmon, and Bernard Martin, who have resigned, and Werner Burgauer, deceased. And as we go to press, a hearty welcome to our ten newest members whose applications were received just after our latest (and last) batch of cards was printed: Francesco Castellano of Milan, Italy (the sixteenth country to be member-represented); Harry Allan of Burnaby, Canada; and from the U.S. -- Allen Barth, Crystal Lake, Illinois; Harry Beyerman, Floral Park, New York; Billie Dee Falk, Shabbona, Illinois; Paul Gould, Highland, California; David Roberts, Carmel, California; Jervis Swannack, Beloit, Wisconsin; Ed Stevens, Chicago, Illinois; and Harry Frey, Michigan City, Indiana.

NEW YEAR, NEW DIRECTORY.

In Newsletter #16, we invited members to speak up or forever hold their peace regarding a contemplated change to an annual printed directory. Having received no objections, the new directory will become a fait accompli this year and will be mailed to members this (and every) April with the spring issue of EQM. The reason for the April mailing date is to allow sufficient time for compilation of current membership data and production of the directory itself.

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Or, putting it another way, to allow sufficient leeway for including all members whose current year's dues are paid and for excluding those who are delinquent.

Which brings us to two related points:

- (1) If you have not paid your dues by the time you receive this newsletter, please do so at once. ISASC's policy is to mail each year's first issue of EQM to all members, but to make no further mailings to those whose dues are unpaid. And now, exclusion from the annual directory is another action to be suffered by those who are delinquent.
- (2) It's been our practice to update membership directory information regarding changed addresses only, simply because much too much effort and expense would have been involved to reprint member cards as collection data changed (collections, by their nature, usually being in a constant state of growth). However, now that we're preparing an all-new directory in a different format, we'll be happy to update the information about each and every member's collection, provided that new information is our hands no later than March 10.

So -- if you'd like to update your listing, send us immediately whatever changes you wish. A word to the wise...

NEW YEAR, NEW OFFERINGS.

Two this time, both exceptional additions to anyone's metrology library. The first is the W. & T. Avery Weights and Measures Catalog No. 100 for Inspectors, previously described on page three of Newsletter #15, and also described in Item 18 on the enclosed literature list. As you may recall, a reply card was sent to members last July asking for an expression of interest, and the response was so immediate and substantial that Tod Carley at once went into production and now reports that the catalog is available



for shipment. This particular publication is one of ISASC's finest, and because of its size (180 pages), has been printed in limited quantity, so you'd best place your order immediately to insure getting a copy. The price is a mere \$30, and the enclosed order card is to be used.

The second offering is a new and first-rate 64-page book titled, Equal Measure for Kings & Commoners: Gold Weights of the Akan, by Andre Nitecki. It's a most comprehensive study of gold weights of West Africa, and both Michael Crawforth, our resident authority, and Ruth Willard, our historian-at-large, have rendered high praise of its content. Excerpts from an upcoming EQM review by Michael are to be found in Item 19 on the enclosed literature list, and Ruth Willard's observations read thus: "This handsome volume is, first, a catalog of the Akan gold weights recently on exhibition at the Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Canada. But it is much more. Distinguished historians, art experts, ethnologists, geographers, and museum specialists have contributed their talents to produce the most comprehensively concise reference yet seen on this subject. Pertinent information from all the standard references is included, and the photography is excellent." Need we say more? Equal Measure ..., with full-color cover and profusely illustrated, is available from ISASC for \$14. Again, use the enclosed card to place your order.

WHICH REMINDS US...

that the enclosed literature list is our newest and fullest, and offers a superb selection of catalogs, books, articles, and historical documents to our members. If you're looking for an indication of its appeal, you need only check with new members Jon Hellman and Michael Lauermann who, immediately upon joining ISASC, ordered one of everything, including a complete set of back issues of EQM. Now, that's good thinking. If you aren't the proud owner of all that ISASC offers, now's the time to make amends. Jon Hellman, by the way, started collecting about a year and a half ago,

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and presently owns about 750 scales! A more avid collector we've never met, and when the Steins saw his collection last November (with jaws agape), Jon hospitably invited any members who find themselves in or near Denver to come and take a look.

#### MORE ON COLLECTIONS.

As mentioned above, the collection of African gold weights about which Nitecki's book was written was on display at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, Canada, for several months in 1982, and was unwittingly discovered by the Steins last October. The museum is a member of ISASC and boasts of a collection of several hundred scales, which was more than sufficient reason for us to pay a surprise visit to Ron Getty, curator of cultural history. Ron, a most cordial host, showed us the museum's collection (stored at the time) and asked us to extend an invitation to our members to feel free at any time to utilize the collection for research purposes. (It was only when Ron suggested we tour the museum that we came across the attractively displayed gold weights collection.)

#### STUTTGART IN THE SPRING.

Member Utz Schmidt tells us that plans are proceeding nicely for our society's 1983 convention in Germany, and based on reservations already in hand, the turnout should be substantial. By now you should have received the letter and flyer from member Emil Cohn describing the convention-connected, nine-day tour of Germany and Switzerland offered by Garlin Travel, and that, too, sounds like a special treat for members.

There's still time to join us, but if you haven't made your reservation yet, we urge you to write Utz immediately and do so, as hotel accommodations are very much in demand that time of year.

#### WORLDWIDE PUBLICITY.

And we mean worldwide. Dr. Shigeo Iwata, a long-standing ISASC



member of considerable scientific stature, arranged for an article about ISASC to appear in the Japanese Measuring Weekly, and for those who do not subscribe to the publication and/or cannot read Japanese, we herewith are reprinting the item in its original form along with an English translation:

**国際古代秤収集者協会が会員を求む**

「国際古代秤収集者協会」から、世界各地で秤の収集などに興味をもつ人に対して、加入の呼びかけが行なわれている。

この協会は、一九七七年に創立され、事務局はアメリカのシカゴにあり、現在会員数二二〇人、機関誌は季刊。会員には①雑誌、ニュースレター②秤の単行本、カタログの販売③世界の主な秤の販売案内④カード化された会員名簿などが送られる。会費四〇ドル。

加入希望者は返信用封筒を添えて日本計量史学会（日本計量新報社内）まで。

"ISASC seeks a wide membership among nations, and invites membership from antique scale collectors in the world. The Society was established in 1977. The headquarters are in Chicago, USA, and editor's office in England. There are about 200 members. Membership fees are \$40. The Society sends members Equilibrium, newsletters, list of members, and much information for collectors. The Society of Historical Metrology, Japan, distributes membership application forms."

Thank you, Dr. Iwata, for bringing us to the attention of a far-Eastern audience. Much of our growth has been traced to this kind of publicity, and we would suggest to members here, there, and everywhere that they, too, endeavor to secure publicity about our society.

BACK TO MONEY FOR A MOMENT.

Those of you who are overseas members undoubtedly have noted that the dues notice you received stipulated that dues are to be paid in U.S. dollars, which now is also a requirement for the purchase of catalogs, books, etc. This practice is necessary because increased operating expenses (particularly \$4,000 a year to print EQM) preclude us from assuming the cost of currency conversion charges (a constant expense), and unfavorable variances in currency exchange rates (an intermittent expense). However, you can secure a U.S. Postal Money Order (International Reissue) from your local post office, which should make it convenient for you to remit U.S. dollars. We hope you understand the need for this action.



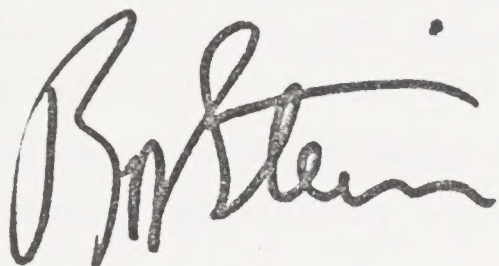
AS WE ENTER 1983...

it's again an appropriate time to tender special thanks to several special people who give so much of themselves to keep ISASC alive and well. First, Bob Miller, our treasurer, who manages our finances so expertly. Second, Tod Carley, who combines hard work and high standards to provide us with a continuing wealth of library offerings. And third, Michael Crawford, whose immense talents bring forth EQM four times a year and yet who finds time to do so much more in our common behalf. Fine gentlemen, one and all, to whom we owe so much.

AND THAT...

brings this missive to an end. Happy collecting!

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.